

to our success. I have therefore, been requested to write and ask you to come to Raleigh *at once*, if you can make it convenient to do so. Mr. Moore requests me to say that he regards your coming as of great importance.

We feel most deeply that our future position depends, in a great degree, upon our present action.

From Joseph Graham to Susan Washington Graham UNC

Kinston,

April 15th., 1862.

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Ten of Uncle John's⁶¹ negro shoemakers ran away on Sunday morning. But one of them, so far as I can ascertain, has yet been arrested. He was taken up by one of our Pickets down the river, supposed to be making his way to New Bern. They are valued at (\$15,000.) Fifteen Thousand Dollars. I hope the others may be taken before they reach the Federal lines. There are said to be several thousand negroes in New Bern now. The Yankees have them at work on the fortifications around the Town. We suppose, from accounts, that they are putting up very strong breastworks against us.

The picture of the War looks very dubious just now, a few reverses upon either side, it would seem, would turn the fortune. Our whole strength must be put forth for the next three months. I think the Summer Campaign must certainly direct the tide of our affairs.

Willie and Jimmie are in the other Brigade, stationed about five miles below this place. I never see them, as it is very hard to get a pass to go that far. But I hear from them, and they were both well a few days since, in fact I saw Col. Sloan yesterday.

Rumor yesterday said Col. Robinson⁶² and Captain Turner

⁶¹ John Cobb Washington (1801-1889), of Kinston, brother of Susan Washington Graham. Clark, "Graham Descendants."

⁶² William G. Robinson, an 1858 graduate of West Point, was lieutenant colonel of the Nineteenth North Carolina Regiment. After being wounded and captured in an Onslow County action April, 1862, he never returned to the regiment. Robinson was briefly a government civil engineer following the war but, lamentably, was in the Eastern Kentucky Asylum in 1876. Cullum, *Biographical Register of the Military Academy*, II, 713; Clark, *Histories of the North Carolina Regiments*, II, 79, 82.